



PROGRESS REPORT





APRIL 13 - 15, 2001

A SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION AT THE
HILTON MINNEAPOLIS & TOWERS
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

WITH GUESTS LESLIE FISH
KEN MACLEOD · JO WALTON



Minicon 36
PO Box 8297
Lake Street Station
Minneapolis, MN 55408-0297
www.mnssf.org/minicon

MEMBERSHIPS

MEMBERSHIP TYPE	UNTIL 15 MAR	AT THE DOOR
Attending	\$40	70
Attending Child	15	30
Supporting	15	

Supporting memberships may be upgraded to attending for \$25. Child rates are for those 12 and under who use con services; babes in arms (that stay with their parents) are free. Foreign members may register now to pay \$40 at the door. Memberships are transferrable but not refundable. Buy early and often!

HOTEL



Hilton Minneapolis & Towers
1001 Marquette Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55403-2440
612-376-1000
www.hilton.com/hotels/MSPMHMH

To reserve a sleeping room, please contact the Hilton directly and ask for the Minicon rate. You can also use the Hilton International reservations number, 800-445-8667. Rates are \$76 + tax per night for 1 - 4 people in a standard guest room. Minicon will manage the allocation of both party and quiet suites. Send suite requests to us at hotel@minicon.mnssf.org or the Minicon PO box, by March 15, 2001.

SCHEDULE

Opening ceremonies will be early Friday Evening; closing ceremonies will be Sunday afternoon. Programming and art show and hucksters room hours will be in between. More detail will appear on the web page as decisions are made.

SO THIS IS YOUR FIRST MINICON?

by David Owen-Cruise

Since you're reading this, I'll assume you've gotten the registration process figured out. That just leaves the rest of the con. It's a bunch of people getting together to have fun over the weekend.

There's music, conversation, games, jokes, stuff to buy, parties, food, and drink. For many of us, this is one of the few times in the year we get to see some of these friends, many of whom we met at Minicon.

Not only does your badge get you into the con's rooms, it's an easy way for people to learn your name. If you're not comfortable with people squinting at your chest, your shoulder, belt, sleeve, or hat work too.

If this is your first con, you may not have met any of your fellow con-goers. It's all right. Jo Walton (Fan Guest of Honour) has suggested approaching cons as being full of friends you haven't yet met. We've all read a lot of the same books, seen many of the same movies, etc. Minicon's program is built around the fact that lots of us want to discuss them and share our opinions on them and other interesting topics.

If you want some company, look for familiar faces from the program items you've attended, but remember that they're probably at least as shy as you are. If not more so.

Though it may seem elementary, don't forget to get some sleep. The room parties will keep going long after midnight on Friday and Saturday night. You don't have to. Most veteran

con-goers have horror stories about the Saturdays and Sundays they slept through and missed.

There are a bunch of professional writers and artists here. They're here to have fun and meet new friends, too, not to look over your manuscript or drawings. Becoming incoherent upon meeting your favorite author is common, so don't worry about it.

This whole shooting match runs on volunteers. Take an hour or three to badge, host a consuite, gopher, or work a signup table. It's not hard work, and it's one of the best ways to meet people and get involved.



THE BOZO BUS TRIBUNE

Back by popular demand! An unprecedented 8-year run continues!

by Jeff Schalles



Minicon's internationally-acclaimed convention newsletter *The Bozo Bus Tribune* will be better than ever this year, with more stories, more art, more news, and tons more silliness, all edited by Priscilla Olson. Contributions from con attendees are always welcome and encouraged throughout the weekend.

There will be a drop-off box for submissions on the Bridge and we can generally provide a spare Macintosh for someone to type into. Just ask on the Bridge for directions to the BBT office. Please note: we can not and will not print unsigned material, and reserve the right to edit submissions. Thanks!

KEN MACLEOD

The online magazine, *Salon*, has hailed Ken MacLeod as "our greatest living Scottish libertarian Trotskyist cyberpunk science-fiction writer." Of course, as far as anyone knows, Ken MacLeod is the *only* Scottish libertarian Trotskyist science fiction writer, cyberpunk or no.

Ken MacLeod burst into view in the mid 1990s with *The Star Fraction*, *The Stone Canal*, *The Cassini Division*, and *The Sky Road*, four novels of humanity, posthumanity, the near and far future, immeasurable space, nanotechnology, and politics. The first two novels both won the "Prometheus" award for libertarian sf, surely the first time that the award has ever gone to a left-wing Scot.

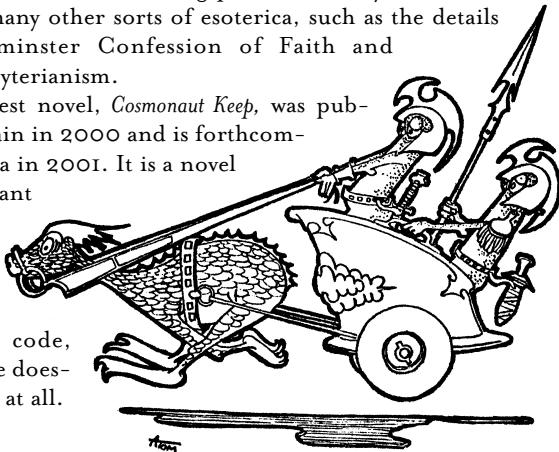
HUCKSTERS ROOM by Beth Friedman

Things are gearing up well (if a bit late) for the Hucksters Room. We have a number of returning hucksters, as well as some new ones. A few tables may still be available. Applications are online at <www.mnstrf.org/minicon/minicon36/dealers.html>, or you can send e-mail to <hucksters@minicon.mnstrf.org>. Or there's always the traditional method of writing to the Minicon PO box, attention Hucksters. We will have the usual assortment of books, jewelry, clothing, and other cool stuff, and will be listing confirmed hucksters on the Minicon 36 Web site soon.

MacLeod's SF is in the best tradition of John W. Campbell, always "asking the next question" and sparing no sacred cows, not even his own. It is as if the familiar landscape of the science fiction novel is suddenly lit by a transforming light. Contentious, political, and very funny, these are books that take no prisoners and suffer no fools lightly. They are also books which tackle questions of racism, the meaning of humanity, and economic justice with real moral seriousness and a unique viewpoint.

Ken is a frequent contributor to Usenet, often found on *rec.arts.sf.written*, *rec.arts.sf.fandom*, or *comp.software.extreme-programming*. He is an endless fount of fascinating political history, as well as a purveyor of many other sorts of esoterica, such as the details of the Westminster Confession of Faith and Scottish Presbyterianism.

Ken's lastest novel, *Cosmonaut Keep*, was published in Britain in 2000 and is forthcoming in America in 2001. It is a novel of hackers, giant alien squid star travelers, castles, dinosaurs, and legacy code, which I'm sure doesn't describe it at all.



CONSUITE COMMENTARY

Well, I don't know what color the cocktail dress is, so I'm having trouble imagining what color her hair will be.

~ Mitchell Pockrandt

Welcome to the consuite, Minicon's hospitality central! The place for company, food, and drink of fannish renown; the place to find out what color Slugger's hair is every day of Minicon.

The consuite will be open from the beginning of Minicon until its end. There are a few special events we want to tell you about now, so you can come prepared for them Easter weekend.

If you can lend a helping hand during the Thursday evening set-up, please come to our **Decorating Party**. The attic at Toad

Hall is filling up with mylar balloons and other sparkly stuff. We'll need a legion of fans to transform the raw materials into things stfnally strange and wondrous or just plain silly.

The consuite is the place to hang out all weekend long. Talk with friends old and new; play with toys, games, and other oddities to be found there; or just get a quick bit of physical or metaphysical sustenance before diving back into the rest of the convention.

Please join us Friday for the first-ever **Minicon Cocktail Party** just before Opening Ceremonies. Slugger has this cocktail dress, you see, and everyone else is welcome to wear his, her, or its favorite clothes.



by Geri Sullivan

FURBY DANCE 11

The Furbys had so much fun last year we've decided to let them play together again at Minicon 36. Having seen just how chaotic these little guys can get (not to mention their human companions) we have some new ideas on how to make this a truly fascinating one-of-a-kind affair for all!

Jack Targonski will be pouring the martinis, Peter Hentges will mix the blog, and Minicon's grenadine will have another moment of fame.

Saturday night is **When Weirds Collide**, aka **Mardi Gras Meets the Minnesota State Fair at Minicon**. Peeps-on-a-stick, floats that float, beads, beads, beads, butter sculpting, music, and more. Way more. Beth Friedman has donated popcorn-flavored schnapps, complete with artificial butter — what will Drinksmaster Dean Gahlon combine it with for his taste-testing? This is the man who brought us sloe gin and Cherry Kool-aid and other horrors that don't always taste nearly as bad as they sound.

Finery or flappery? State Fair pickle hats or Mardi Gras feathers? Why choose? Everything fits When Weirds Collide at Minicon.

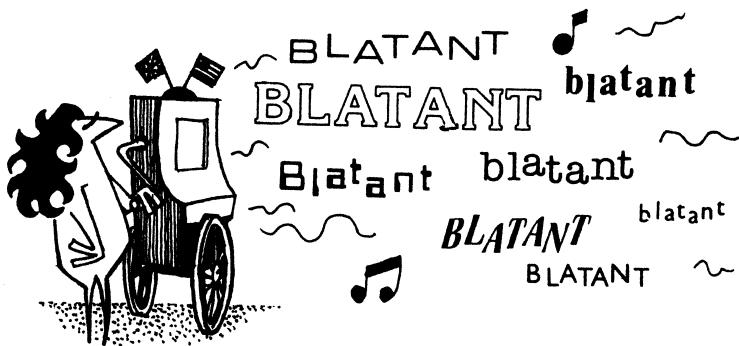
We'll spend most of Sunday recovering. Lounging around, talking, the usual. Then it's time to tear down and pack up before the Sunday night dead dog party. Helping hands are welcome then, too, of course.

Send your ideas for When Weirds Collide, offers to help, and other suggestions for the consuite to <hospitality@minicon.mnstatefair.org>.

LESLIE FISH

When I connected with the Chicago anarchist circle in 1970, Leslie Fish had already been there for a while. She'd been up in the balcony with the other paper-airplane throwers at the final S.D.S.* convention, when one half of the schism became the Weathermen.

Over the next few years, she introduced me to the use of a railroad flare as a defensive weapon (she always carried one in the side



* Students for a Democratic Society, of "participatory democracy" fame, was a leftist/socialist organizing group which got swallowed up by the Vietnam War, FBI subversion, and Marxist sectarianism; when it fractured, one group became the most notorious underground bomb-making college student revolutionaries of the Sixties.

† Roman household god — they like wine.

‡ When one of the later Roman emperors put a tax on public urinals, his

by Neil Rest

of her boot), slash fiction, and the lar* on her refrigerator. She began to get GoH-ships at Trek cons. I thought being paid to be a Trekkie was pretty weird, but *non olet*.[‡]

(The story about her and Freddie Baer and Penny Pixler getting arrested at the University of Iowa Circle Campus for attempted rape is too long and complicated for this space —listen to "Bold Rapista". But I have some of the responsibility because they were there in the first place to use my office for May Day preparations.)

I'm told that "Folk Songs for Folk Who Ain't Even Been Yet," with the DeHorn Crew and with the I.W.W.* bug on the cover, is taken as the first commercial folk recording. Her songs come as much from the Little Red Songbook (and Kipling) as from SF.

By now, she's created a unique economic niche almost big enough to support herself with her creative efforts. And she's threatened to sell a novel expanded from her song, "Wobblies from Space; the Little Ol' Union Man", about a Wobblie (the late, beloved Fred Thompson) organizing the Enterprise. That's a Trek novel I'd buy.

son was grossed out. The father is supposed to have held a gold coin under the boy's nose and replied, "*Pecunia non olet*": money has no odor.

* Industrial Workers of the World <<http://www.iuw.org>> was America's flaming left from 1905 until the first wave of Red Scares around 1920. The Little Red Songbook is their songbook, and still has songs by Joe Hill. Can you name any other union which can field a band made up of the union's officers?

JO WALTON

Welsh fan Jo Walton is perhaps the first truly great fanwriter of the new online fandom. Usenet, Fidonet and the bulletin boards have featured fine work for over two decades. But just as it took some time for fanzine fandom to produce Walt Willis and Lee Hoffman, it's only now that we find in Jo Walton that warm, strong, brilliant writerly voice that makes us say, yes, this is what online fanwriting could be.

Jo seems to have a complete understanding of both the breadth and the limitations of Usenet. She uses the immediacy of the medium, snapping off topical observations, playing word silly word games, making connections and building relationships. She understands the dynamics of Usenet. She can defuse flame wars, argue with kooks without losing her dignity, and clarify muddy theory, all in flexible and lovely prose.

Perhaps her most famous piece of Usenet writing is her filk, "The Lurkers Support Me in Email." It so accurately describes a well-known Usenet tactic that the lyrics are now widespread over the net, quoted by people who have no idea what *rec.arts.sf.fandom* is, much less who Jo Walton is.

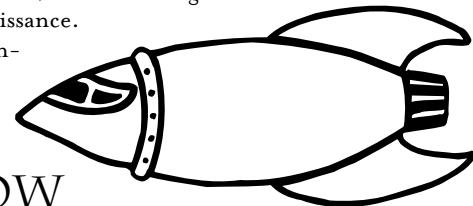
She also posts brilliant pastiches, deadly funny parodies, wonderful stories about her son Sasha, and amazing poetry. It's hard to imagine the newsgroups *rec.arts.sf.fandom*, *rec.arts.sf.composition*, or *rec.arts.sf.written* without her.

Her first novel, *The King's Peace*, appeared in the US this fall. Her second novel, *The King's Name*, is due out in November of this year.

www.bluejo.demon.co.uk

On contract are *The Prize in the Game*, set in Sulien's world but several generations earlier; and *The Giant Will Rise with the Moon*, set many centuries later, in something like that world's Renaissance.

Her fanwriting continues, and fandom is strengthened thereby.



ART SHOW

Our apologies for getting art show info out so late. If you checked art show on the old registration form or sent an email query, you're already on our list and should be hearing from us nearly immediately. Otherwise, please email <artshow@minicon.mnstrf.org> or request information via the PO box.

MINICON WEB

Minicon's Web page is at <www.mnstrf.org/minicon>. It has information, links, more information, and more links. Check it daily—hourly! Don't leave home without it!

Ideas, comments, suggestions, and questions about our site are welcome. E-mail Erik Olson at <webmaster@minicon.mnstrf.org>. You don't *really* want to write us at the PO box for this, do you?

GORDY DICKSON

GORDON RUPERT DICKSON, born November 1 1923, died January 31 2001. Gordy was a Hugo and Nebula winning writer, past president of the Science Fiction Writers of America, and long-time Minn-StF member.

We intend to have a lot of material honoring and remembering Gordy in our program book and on the program. We're looking for program book articles about him and his works, as well as programming ideas and panelists. Short reminiscences would also be very useful. If you have something about Gordy to share, please contact <publications@minicon.mnssf.org> or <programming@minicon.mnssf.org>, or write to us via the address given on the first page.

PUBLICATIONS

Next stop for Publications is the Program Book. Copy and ad requests have been coming in, but we still need more (and more and more!). If you're interested in writing an article or placing an ad, please contact publications@minicon.mnssf.org for details. Our drop-dead deadline is March 15, 2001. The ad rates are:

	DIMENSIONS	FAN RATE	PRO RATE
Full page	7.5 x 10.25 in.	\$100	\$200
Half page	7.5 x 5 in.	\$60	\$120
Business card	2 x 3.5 in.	\$15	\$30

The fan rate applies to non-commercial fan-run or non-profit organizations.

No halftones on business card ads, please.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING

For Minicon 36, childcare will be combined with children's programming. Childcare will share space with children's programming and children will be encouraged to participate in age-appropriate activities. We will post this year's events on the web by early March and will be looking for volunteers to host them. Please look to see if anything interests you and your children!

Children staying for more than one programmed event will need to be registered with the childcare staff. There will be a separate sign-in sheets for childcare and children's programming. Children attending either will be supervised at all times by program volunteers. If your children are under ten, they need to be accompanied to and from childcare and programming by an adult; if they only *look* like they're under ten, please contact our staff to let us know they're old enough to go unaccompanied.

This year, we cannot care for children under three or who have not been toilet trained. Hours for childcare have not yet been determined as we would like feedback as to what will best serve your family's needs. You can also contact us for information about alternate care arrangements. If you have questions, comments, or concerns, or you would like to volunteer, please call Laura Jean Fish between 10 AM and 10 PM at (612) 724-2514.

MINICON, like most science fiction conventions, is run entirely by volunteers. We'll need lots of volunteers during the con—sign up on the bridge. If you're in town Thursday evening, come to the third floor to meet everyone and help us set up.

HOTEL INFORMATION

by Scott Raun

Minicon 36 is returning to the downtown Hilton Minneapolis & Towers at 1001 Marquette Ave South. (This is the block between 10th and 11th Streets South and between Marquette Avenue and 2nd Avenue South.) We encourage everyone to book their rooms now — and certainly before our room block is released on March 23, 2001. To reserve a sleeping room, call:

612-376-1000 Hilton Minneapolis & Towers
800-445-8667 Hilton International toll-free reservations

Ask for the "Minicon" group rate. (If that doesn't work, ask for the "Minnesota Science Fiction Society" group rate.) Our room rate is: \$76 per night (+12% tax) for 1-4 people in a standard guest room. This rate is good Wednesday, April 11, 2001, through Tuesday, April 17, 2001; Minicon 35 is April 13-April 15.

There are suites available. Suite rates are:

Junior Suite	(last year's Executive King Suite)	\$130 / night
Suite	(last year's Parlor Suite: Parlor & 2 Bedrooms)	\$280 / night

Please contact hotel@minicon.mnssf.org if you would like a suite. There are currently plenty of suites of both types available.

The Hilton is taking guaranteed reservations only; you must guarantee your reservation one of two ways:

1. Guarantee it with a credit card number. By the terms of our contract, use of this method requires no further deposit. Your room will be held until 3:00 AM the first night of your reservation, at which point the card will be charged for that night.

2. Guarantee it with a cash deposit. This deposit is due at the Hilton Minneapolis within ten days of making your reservation.

If you need to cancel a reservation, you must do so at least a full day before your scheduled arrival. If you have questions about the status of your reservation, check directly with the Hilton Minneapolis & Towers (612-376-1000).

If you want a quiet room, ask for a room below the 16th floor. The open room parties will all be located on the 16th floor and above; if you want your room to be on a party floor, ask for a higher floor. Also, be sure to state any preferences for smoking or non-smoking, king bed or double-double. Also, please let the reservations staff know of any special needs you may have, such as reserving one of their 25 handicapped-accessible rooms.

The Hilton's check-in time is 3:00 PM. Normal check-out time is 12 noon, but that has been extended until 4:00 PM on Sunday and Monday of Minicon. Pool hours have also been extended until 2:30 AM throughout the convention.

MINICON EMAIL CONTACTS

request@minicon.mnssf.org
volunteers@minicon.mnssf.org
registration@minicon.mnssf.org
hospitality@minicon.mnssf.org
hucksters@minicon.mnssf.org
artshow@minicon.mnssf.org
publications@minicon.mnssf.org

hotel@minicon.mnssf.org
childcare@minicon.mnssf.org
chair@... Sense a pattern yet?

The web site is also an ever-expanding source of useful information.

DIRECTIONS TO MINICON

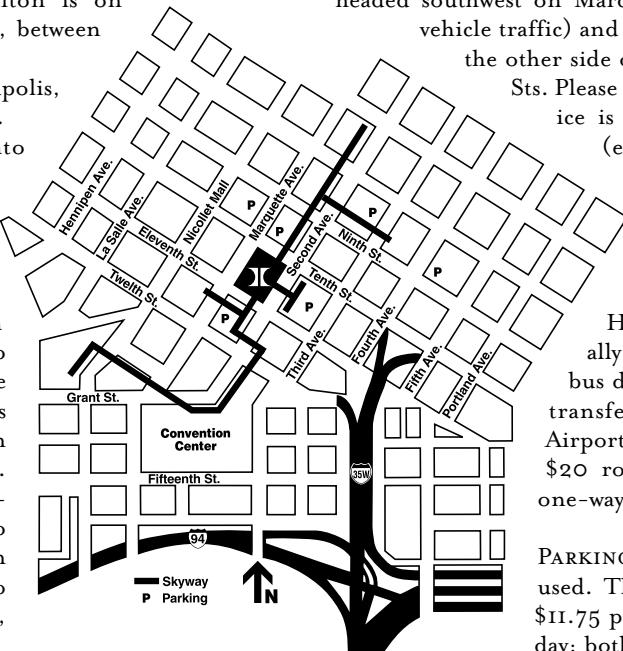
by car, by rail, & by air

FROM THE SOUTH, follow I-35W into Minneapolis. Once past MN-62, move to the second lane from the left, and follow the signs for MN-65. Exit on 11th St., follow 11th to Marquette Ave., and turn right on Marquette. The Hilton is on Marquette, on your immediate right, between 11th and 10th Sts.

FROM THE EAST, follow I-94 to Minneapolis, exit on 11th St., and proceed as above.

FROM THE NORTH, follow I-35W into Minneapolis, and follow I-94 westbound. Exit on 11th St. and proceed as above.

FROM THE WEST, you have several choices. If you follow I-94 to downtown Minneapolis, exit at Hennepin and Lyndale, and turn left onto Hennepin at the first light. (Yes, we know the sign at Hennepin says "Dunwoody Blvd".) Turn right on 12th St., then left on Marquette Ave. Or you can take I-494 south from I-94 to I-394, and follow I-394 east to Minneapolis. After MN-100, stay in the second lane from the left, exit onto 12th St., follow 12th St. to Marquette, and turn left onto Marquette.



FROM THE MIDWAY AMTRAK DEPOT, either take a cab to the *Downtown Minneapolis Hilton*, or take a westbound #16 MCTO bus to Minneapolis. Transfer at Marquette Ave. to any bus headed southwest on Marquette (against the normal flow of vehicle traffic) and get off at 10th St. The Hilton is on the other side of the street, between 10th and 11th Sts. Please note that as of this writing, rail service is every other day in each direction (east from Seattle, west from Chicago).

FROM MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, take a cab to the *Downtown Minneapolis Hilton*, an Airport Limousine (actually a van), or a northbound #7 MCTO bus downtown (\$1.50 in rush hour) and transfer at Marquette as above. The Airport Express shuttle is \$13 one-way; \$20 roundtrip. Average taxi cost is \$30 one-way, including tip.

PARKING RATES depend upon the ramp used. The Hilton underground parking is \$11.75 per day and valet parking is \$20 per day; both have in/out privileges.

REGISTRATION NOTES

To find out if you have already registered, look at the upper right corner of your mailing label. Memberships in your name will be listed there (ATND, CHLD, SUPP). If you have more than one membership, that will be indicated, too (e.g., ATND+2S).

Supporting memberships may be upgraded to attending memberships for \$25. Child rates are for those 12 and under who use con services; babes in arms (staying with their parents) are free. Non-USian members may register now to pay \$40 at the door.

Badges will have a large primary name, a smaller (but still visible) secondary name, and your city and state. You can use your nickname, your e-mail address, your bookstore, or whatever you like. Howsoever, one of the fields must include your full name; if you don't put it in, we will. A fannish use name is okay (but may need to be documented).

Memberships are transferrable but not refundable. Buy early and often!

Minicon 36 Registration Shortest Form



First Person/First Name (Middle) Last

Street Address City State Zip Country

Optional Phone/Cell/Fax (Please specify!) Optional E-mail Address Preferred Time/Method of Contact



Second Person/First Name (Middle) Last

Street Address City State Zip Country

Optional Phone/Cell/Fax (Please specify!) Optional E-mail Address Preferred Time/Method of Contact

Badge Names

First Person's Primary Badge Name Secondary Badge Name Second Person's Primary Badge Name Secondary Badge Name

Interested in being on programs, exhibiting at the Art Show, or having a table in the Hucksters Room? Contact those departments directly, via e-mail or at our PO Box.

Badges will have a big name, a little name, and your city and state. Your full fannish name should be included; we'll add it if you don't. If you have questions regarding your badge, please consult the web site or contact registration@minicon.mnstrf.org.

Type 15 Mar
 Attending \$40
 Child (to 12) \$15
 Supporting \$15
 Add to volunteer e-mail list

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